

THE BONSAI *Wire*

UPDATE

The Newsletter of The Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

May 2014

FROM THE President

Iwould like to say thank you to Jim Osborne, Robert Reed and Dawn Koetting for stepping in at the last minute for the past couple of meetings to put on programs when the scheduled presentations fell through due to illness of the presenters. All three did an excellent job - first Jim and Rob with their critiques and then Dawn with her Shohin presentation. A club is only as good as its members and GNOBS has been blessed with an abundance of talented members who will freely share their knowledge and give back to the club.

This month Jim Osborne will do a boxwood bunjin demo. Bunjin can be a confusing concept for beginners because many of the “rules” go out the window and you need to think about the tree in a whole different way. Jim loves bunjin maybe over all other styles and I’m sure that passion will be displayed in the demo.

The club has managed to obtain a number of old boxwood suitable for the bunjin style. We will be doing an inexpensive (\$25) and informal workshop at Gerald’s house. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting. There are still some spots available. If you haven’t attend one of these, I highly recommend it. It will be an informative and laid back learning experience.



Kathy Barbazon,
GNOBS President

MEETINGS & Events

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Program: 7:00pm Jim Osborne will demo a Bunjin style boxwood Bunjin is a passion for Jim and has it’s own distinct rules—or lack of rules for styling. Jim, a previous Vaughn Banting winner, will demo a collected boxwood and lecture on the nuances of the Bunjin style. *Bring either a Bunjin style tree or a boxwood for display.*

Stay tuned for the new date for the boxwood workshop.

Workshop: Collected boxwoods suitable for Bunjin styling This will be an informal workshop led by Jim Osborne. Cost of the workshop, which includes the collected boxwood and use of club wire is \$25. There will be a sign up sheet at the meetings.

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Program: Open workshop This is your chance to bring in and work on one of your trees and get the help and collaboration of other members. Members will be available for basic advice as well as to give a second opinion to help you bring a good tree to a great tree. It’s also a good time for newer members to get the help of more experienced members. Club wire will be available for use.

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Program: Randy Bennet Presentation on bonsai trees of the National Arboretum Randy, known to you as a past GNOBS President and as an accomplished practitioner of bonsai will give a presentation on the trees of the National Arboretum and their evolution over the years.

Saturday, August 16, 2014

Annual Auction

Members are always encouraged to bring any tree to meetings that they wish to discuss or about which they need advice.

Meetings take place on the second Tuesday each month at 7:30pm (pre-meeting activities begin at 7:00pm) at the **Marine Corps League Hall**, 2708 Delaware St., Kenner, LA. For more information, articles and everything bonsai, check us out on our website at www.gnobs.org.

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BEGINNER Basics

In our area:

■ **Generally avoid very dark pots like black and very dark blue (they soak up too much heat)**

■ **Use pots a little deeper than what you see specified in books as "proper". Here they will dry out and heat up too quickly.**

■ **Rot occurs very quickly in our area. Seal cuts and jins and reapply sealers as necessary.**



Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society

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Pruning by Joe Day



Pruning is a very simple word for a very complex process. Every species is pruned slightly different. A Japanese Maple and Trident Maple during Spring can be pruned daily. Beech are pruned once in Winter and usually once in the Spring. You don't prune Hornbeam until the new wood has started to harden and turn brown. Boxwood and Juniper can not be pruned back beyond the last green growth. You don't prune off large branches on a Trident during the Spring, you don't trim the apex of a Trident in the fall. You prune Black Pine different than you do White Pine. Azalea are base dominant so you take care to not prune the apex back too far. Japanese Maple and Trident are apex dominant so you trim the apex and let the lower branches grow each stronger before you prune them. If you prune an Azalea at the wrong time you will not get any flowers next spring and on and on and on.

Healing Scars

by Joe Day



o bonsai is created without scars. Scars are a danger to the tree. They are a portal for fungus and disease. Scars also weaken the tree. Create scars with sharp tools. A smooth cut will heal much faster. Rough cuts slow the formation of scar tissue. A

rough cut can have an area up to 4 times as large as a smooth cut. About 95 percent of the species we use for bonsai should be sealed with a bonsai sealer. If in doubt or you don't know what species should be sealed, seal it anyway. Seal as soon as you work on the tree. Bonsai sealer kills fungus and disease. It also keeps out air that would dry the wood, water that would help rot the wood. Bonsai sealer remains flexible allowing the scar tissue to lift it off the sealer as the tissue grows across the scar.

The quick way to heal a scar is to have a healthy bonsai. Trees that are not healthy form scar tissue slowly or not at all.

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